

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A subcutaneous insertion device comprising:  
a solid, substantially straight needle comprising a shaft, a first end, and a second end; and  
an insulator covering at least a portion of the shaft;  
wherein the first end of the needle is exposed and is configured for subcutaneous insertion into a patient; and  
wherein an exterior surface of the insulator provides an outermost surface of the shaft.
2. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein the first end of the needle has a length comprising from about one to about twenty percent of the needle.
3. (Original) The invention of claim 1 further comprising a conductor coupled to an exposed surface of the needle.
4. (Original) The invention of claim 3 wherein the conductor contacts at least a portion of the second end of the needle.
5. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein the insulator comprises a biocompatible coating.
6. (Original) The invention of claim 5 wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of an epoxy resin, polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and combinations thereof.

7.-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The invention of claim 1 wherein a portion of the second end of the needle is radially surrounded by a conductor.

26. (New) The invention of claim 1 wherein a portion of the second end of the needle is radially surrounded by a coiled metal wire conductor.

27. (New) A subcutaneous insertion device comprising:  
a solid, substantially straight electroacupuncture needle  
comprising a shaft, a first end, and a second end;  
wherein the first end of the needle is exposed;  
wherein an insulator covers at least a portion of the shaft and  
provides an outermost surface of the shaft; and  
wherein a portion of the second end of the needle is radially  
surrounded by a conductor.

28. (New) The invention of claim 27 wherein the conductor is a coiled metal wire.